

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 11 JULY 2004

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za, on packet bulletin boards and on echolink. Echolink users can click on to ZS6FCS and they are invited to relay the bulletin on their local repeaters.

Queries on how to obtain and use Echolink or reports, comments or suggestions from echolink users will be appreciated. They can send an e-mail to: zs6fcs@telkomsa.net.

In the news today:

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Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs on the web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

You are listening to ZS6SRL.

The news follows in detail.

SARL MEMBERSHIP

Individuals who take their hobby seriously, will realize that an integral part of Amateur Radio in South Africa, is being a SARL member.

The League's financial year stretches from July to June of the following year. It is now the RIGHT TIME to join the SARL or to renew your membership.

The membership fee is R290-00 p/a for normal members and R230-00 p/a for persons older than 65 years of age. To enroll your wife/husband will amount to R100-00 p/a.

This membership fee can be deposited directly into the SARL's bank account. The details are:

Bank: Standard Bank; Branch: Killarney, Johannesburg; Account No: 001682059; Branch Code: 007205; Type of Account: Cheque.

It is also possible to renew your membership via the web at: www.sarl.org.za

ICASA DATA BASE OBTAINED

The SARL Council has succeeded in obtaining the Amateur Radio Data Base from ICASA. This data base does not contain confidential information, only callsigns, names and addresses. As you can imagine, this data base is far from complete. There are many duplicates in it, many silent keys are still on the list and many new amateurs are not in the data base. Louis, ZS1LVH, has volunteered to get this data base as up to date as possible. He needs all the input he can get. Possible sources of information are club data bases and input from individual amateurs. If you are a club chairman or secretary, please send your club data base to Louis so that he can use it for comparison purposes. Many individuals also know of Silent Keys that are still in the data bases, and consequently also in various call books, and about new amateurs that are not in the various call books. The effort that Louis is making can help to get all the data bases and call books up to date. Please help by supplying data to Louis either by e-mail to zs1lvh@absamail.co.za or on packet to ZS1LVH@ZS0STB, or send it to secretary@sarl.org.za and Henry will see that Louis gets it.

RADIO REGULATIONS

Under the proposed new Radio Regulations, the Morse requirement for a ZS license will be replaced by a number of assessments. Candidates wishing to obtain a ZS license will have to complete any one of these assessments, and the choice of which assessment to attempt will be up to the candidate him- or herself.

Council published a draft list of proposed assessments for comment on 31st March. After having considered the comments received, Council has agreed on an amended set of assessments and has published these for comment. The proposed assessments are:

1. Confirmed contacts with 100 different stations on any band and mode.
2. The construction of a direct conversion or superhet receiver or a crystal controlled transmitter for any amateur frequency and mode.
3. 50 hours of public service communication at sports events, disaster preparedness exercises and educational stations.
4. A professional tertiary qualification in electronics or radio.
5. Morse code proficiency at 5 words per minute.

Prior achievements will be recognised, so anyone who can show that they have already fulfilled the requirements for any of these assessments will be able to apply for a ZS license as soon as the new regulations come into effect.

Full details of the assessments can be found on the SARL's web site www.sarl.org.za. Council invites comments from members on the proposal. Comments can be sent by email to secretary@sarl.org.za, by fax to the SARL office at (011) 675 2793 or to our postal address, P.O. Box 1721, Strubensvallei 1735. Comments should reach the SARL not later than Sunday 25th July.

WIN AN ICOM V8000 MOBILE TRANCEIVER

By attending the SARL Hamfest on Saturday 21 August you can win a brand new ICOM V8000 mobile rig or one of the many other attendance prizes. The entrance fee to the event is R20 for adults. Children, learners and students enter free. The R20 entrance ticket entitles you to take part in the attendance draw; the only requirement is that you have to be present when the draw takes place at 15:30. The Icom transceiver has been donated by Multisource. Vladimir Karamitrov, ZS6MG, has more details about the V8000. (bulletin reader: audio available on the SARL web).

The lecture programme is taking shape. In the technology slot Tony Voorvelt, ZS6CCD, will talk about the 200 years of the diode in a presentation that includes several demonstrations.

Andrew Roos, ZS1AN, will talk about Digital Voice for Amateur HF Communication, Hal Lund, ZS6WB, will discuss Digital Techniques for VHF and Prof. Alex Antonites of the University of Pretoria will present a paper on SETI, Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence. The Technology stream will conclude with a presentation on Power Line Communications and its impact on Amateur Radio presented by Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS6AKV.

The Amateur Radio in Action stream features Contesting with Chris Burger, ZS6EZ. Several other papers such as DXing, DXpeditions and Awards Hunting are being finalised. More details in next week's SARLnews. The flea market will start at 13:00 when the lecture programme breaks for an hour and a half. Also visit www.sarl.org.za for programme details.

AMSATCON PROGRAMME FINALISED

The programme for the 2004 SA AMSAT Conference has been finalised. Visit the website www.amsatsa.org.za for the full programme and registration forms. You are reminded to book before 20th July to take advantage of the early bird discount. To get the documentation by fax, email the number to saamsat@intekom.co.za or fax details to 012 991 5651.

The conference will be opened by Prof. Tony Broadhurst, the acting head of the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

NEXT INTECNET TO FOCUS ON HISTORY

The next SARL Intecnet will focus on the history of Amateur Radio in South Africa. It will take place on 15th August at 20:00 CAT. If you have a story to tell, send an email to ARMI@sarl.org.za or a fax to 012 991 5651.

Clubs are invited to book a link to their local repeater. Send details of the telephone number to be linked to ARMI@@sarl.org.za.

CLUB NEWS

REMOVAL OF NAMES FROM MEMBERSHIP LIST

The East Rand Radio Club Committee has removed the following two names from it's membership list:

Amaro da Soussa, ZS6AFR; Chris Willigenburg, ZS6VB.

As a result Spectrum on Sunday Evenings as well as Morse Classes during the week will no longer be transmitted on the 145,675 East Rand Repeater. The Committee wishes the two individuals well in their endeavours.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Kobus, ZS6KOB, reported that propagation conditions during the past week were still very weak. On Friday the sunspot number was only 22,6 as against the also low of 26,6 of last week. It was in a descending mode since the 20th June and it kept on decreasing steadily during the last few days. It is expected that it may start increasing during this week towards a possible next peak (but still low) towards the end of next week. Active areas on the sun's surface were mainly in the northern part with noticeably less in the southern part. No mentionable inflow of coronal mass is expected towards the earth.

DIARY OF EVENTS AND REMINDERS

24 July: AMSATCON2004, Durban; 7 August: Magalies Radio Amateur Club commences RAE course; 21 August: Radio Technology in Action and Hamfest at the NARC; 2 October: Flea Market at the East Rand Radio Club; Pay SARL membership, fees; Contribute to the fund initiated by the SA Amateur Radio Development Trust for the SARL's IARU membership; Send articles for Radio ZS to radiozs@sarl.org.za; Visually impaired hams contact Dave, ZS1LDH, on 021-761-8386 or email Dave, care of the Cape Town Amateur Radio Centre on zs1ct@qsl.net regarding receiving Radio ZS on tape. Email SARL history to zs6p@iafrica.com.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 815, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by Gustav, ZS6BWN, and read byfrom..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave

listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX